



Secretary of State
DEBRA BOWEN
State of California

December 14, 2009

The Honorable Mike Feuer
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Feuer:

I want to make you aware of some deceptive solicitations that businesses in your district may be receiving that imply companies have to go through a private, third-party vendor – and pay an exorbitant fee – in order to file official documents with my office.

Some solicitations involve “Statement of Information” documents that appear at first glance to be official. The documents require a fee to file them with my office and threaten fines for non-compliance. The most recent misleading mailing implies that a company must pay \$495 to a private, third-party vendor in order to file a dissolution document with my office when it goes out of business.

Under the law, no business is required to go through a third party to file a document with my office. There is no need for any company to pay more than the applicable statutory filing fee that, in most cases, is no more than \$25.

Perhaps even worse than the outrageous fees being charged is that if the third party does not file the correct documents with my office, the business entity – not the third party – may face additional fees and penalties. Submitting documents and fees to a third party alone does not meet the business entity’s legal obligation to file with the Secretary of State.

A Customer Alert on my website at www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/alert-misleading-solicitations.htm has more information about these deceptive ploys, information on how businesses can file documents directly with my office, and how they can contact the Attorney General if they have already been victimized or received one of these solicitations. My office is working with the California Attorney General to go after the companies sending out these misleading solicitations.

If you have questions about this or any other solicitation relating to filings with the Secretary of State, please call my office at (916) 653-6244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Bowen".

Debra Bowen
Secretary of State

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